

Stanly County Soil & Water Conservation District

VOLUME 20
WINTER EDITION
JANUARY 2014

Conservation Information

26032-C Newt Road
Agri-Civic Center
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3059

Annual Tree Seedling Sale

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District's annual tree seedling sale begins on January 10th. The following species of trees will be available...

E a s t e r n White Pine -

Soft blue-green needles 3-5" long. Fast growth with excellent needle retention. Desirable for ornamentals, and reforestation.



Loblolly Pine -

One of the fastest growing of the southern pines. Good as a screen in the early years and timber at maturity.



Persimmon

A slow growing tree of moderate size (25 to 50 feet). It is sometimes planted for its edible fruit and is valued as an ornamental.



Trees will go on sale Friday, January 10th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. daily at the Agri-Civic Center until sold out.

Prices:

White Pine \$2.25 / doz.
Loblolly \$2.25 / doz.
Persimmon \$1.10 each

Contact Stanly SWCD at 704-986-3059 or rlittle@stanlycountync.gov

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Stanly SWCD District Technician retires

Stanly Soil and Water recently said goodbye to District Technician, Gerald McSwain, and wished him well on his retirement.

Gerald has contributed 19 years of dedicated service to the Stanly County District. He will surely be missed. Gerald has been a friend and co-worker to many during his ten-

ure with Stanly County. His office sits empty at the Ag Center, awaiting his replacement who will have big shoes to fill.

"I would like to thank everyone whom I have worked with on projects" Gerald

"December 31, 2013 was my last day as your District Technician. I have enjoyed working

for all the people in Stanly County. I would like to thank everyone whom I have worked with on projects to make Stanly County a more environmentally friendly place. I hope that you will continue using the Stanly Conservation District and support the new Technician that will take my place." Gerald McSwain

District Board Members

Terry Blalock	Chairman
John Pickler	Vice-Chairman
Richard E. Clayton, Sr.	Secretary/ Treasurer
Curtis Furr	Member
June Mabry	Member
W. Chester Lowder	Advisor

District and NRCS Staff

Rita Little	Admin/Education Coordinator
Nathan Lowder	District Conservationist
Miranda McDaniel	ATAC Admin. Support Asst.



Cotton Incorporated

A grant was awarded to Stanly County SWCD by Cotton Inc. to install mixed cover crop species on crop-

land to be planted in cotton during the spring of 2014. The demonstration plot was planted with no-till drill in a mixed cover crop of crimson clover and wheat following a corn harvest. The cover crop will be managed until April 15 and then terminated to allow for the planting of NT cotton. The plot was established on a farm operated by Larry Coley and the office hopes to host a spring cover crop meeting to showcase the results of the plot.



As part of the grant, a local meeting was held for producers to discuss the pros and cons on the practice of using mixed cover crops and was highlighted by a presentation by Curtis Furr, a local producer and SWCD Supervisor who actively uses mixed cover crops in rotations on his farm, Big Bear Creek Farms, Inc.

Investing in our future, our children...

Stanly SWCD 's Education Coordinator presented educational programs on soil conservation to 5th and 6th grade students during November and December. Total students reached...679

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program and No-till Drill Report

The Stanly Soil & Water District requested \$199,999 and was allocated \$51,994 for Best Management Practices (BMP) for farms in Stanly County. Also, the District requested \$5,000 and was allocated \$1,763 for Community Conservation Assistance Program. Signup for applications is going on now. If you have an erosion or water quality problem, please come by our office to apply for cost share assistance.

The no-till-drill was used to seed 96.6 acres of seed since June 2013. This not only helps the public with establishing grass, but also controls erosion.

Ag-Awareness Days...A Success Story

Stanly County is a rural community, yet many youth are unaware of the source of their food and fiber. North Carolina Cooperative Extension hosted the 9th annual Ag-Awareness Days to educate local students about the different aspects of agriculture and the environment of Stanly County. We partnered with various agencies and volunteers to provide eleven hands-on stations that correlated to the Essential Standards for 3rd graders to rotate through over the course of three days. Teacher's completed surveys and reported improvements in their students' interest in science, animals, plants, crops, and the source of their food and clothing. One teacher reported, she felt that her students would "use their experiences at Ag Awareness Days to make connections with discussions, lessons, and future experiences."





January 30
Agri-Civic
Center
Albemarle, NC

WETLANDS IN NORTH CAROLINA WORKSHOP



The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be presenting information on the various federal laws related to wetlands that may impact you.

Events are open to the public. Seating is limited and attendance will be first come, first served.

All events will begin promptly at 1:00 pm and will end at 3:00 pm.

Topics include:

- Applicable Federal Laws Related to Wetlands
- Similarities and Differences between the Corps and USDA Wetland Laws
- Landowner/Land Manager Responsibilities

For more information contact your local NRCS or FSA Field Offices at 704-982-6811

National Cover Crop and Soil Health Conference

A national conference on cover crops and soil health will be held in Omaha, Nebraska February 18-19, 2014. The conference is sponsored by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and will bring together key leaders, researchers, innovators and policy makers in American agriculture to examine the benefits, opportunities and challenges associated with improving the health and function of soils through the adoption of soil health management systems. To make the forum more accessible and to take advantage of such a unique opportunity, the opening session on February 18th, featuring Secretary Tom Vilsack (invited), Howard G. Buffett, and leading producers, will be streamed via the internet to several hundred remote “forum” locations throughout the country. These remote forums will provide NRCS, farmers and its conservation partners and stakeholders with an opportunity to organize or energize efforts to further the soil health movement—at the grass-roots level.

	February 18, 2014 NRCS and FSA State Office <i>45 person capacity</i>	FSA Conference Room 4407 Bland Road, Room 265, Raleigh, NC 27609
	Union County Agricultural Services and Conference Center <i>150 person capacity</i>	Meeting Room 3230 Presson Road, Monroe, NC 28112
	Catawba Valley Community College, Alexander County Campus <i>50 person capacity</i>	Commissioner's Meeting Room 345 Industrial Blvd. Taylorsville, NC 28681

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Stanly Soil & Water conservation District would like to thank the sponsors of this newsletter. Without their financial support, this publication would not be possible. The District sincerely appreciates their support

 <p>Office: 704-982-8496 Fax: 704-982-8500 Cell: 704-791-3589</p> <p>Billy R. Lowder Facility Manager</p> <p>32467 Millingport Rd Albemarle, NC 28001</p> <p>www.cpsagu.com</p>	 <p>Main Office: 155 W. South St., Ph. 982-9184 West Stanly: Hwy. 27, Locust, Ph. 888-4431</p>	<p>ENTERPRISE RENDERING COMPANY DEAD FARM ANIMALS REMOVED Horses, Ponies, Mules, Hogs</p> <p>USED RESTAURANT COOKING OIL</p> <p>PHONE 485-3018 28821 BETHLEHEM Church Rd. Oakboro, NC 28129</p>						
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<p>To sponsor an ad... Call 704-986-3059 or rlittle@stanlycountync.gov</p>	 <p>www.Uwharrie.com</p>	<p>STRATEGIC INVESTMENT ADVISORS, INC.</p> <p>www.StrategicInvestmentAdvisors.com</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Not FDIC Insured</td> <td>Not Bank Guaranteed</td> <td>May Lose Value</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Not Guaranteed by any Government Agency</td> <td>Not a Bank Deposit</td> </tr> </table>	Not FDIC Insured	Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value	Not Guaranteed by any Government Agency		Not a Bank Deposit
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The Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District publishes this newsletter, *Conservation Information*, quarterly to provide information to the land user. If you would consider helping us cut our production cost by viewing this newsletter on our website, www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water, please call 704-986-3059 or email rlittle@stanlycountync.gov to be put on our email list.

New FSA County Committee Election Ballots

The County Committee Election ballots that were mailed to producers on Nov. 4 were incorrectly printed with the producer's name and address on the back of the ballot. County committee elections must use a secret ballot so the misprinted ballots cannot be used. Please destroy or recycle the misprinted ballot. If you have already voted, your ballot will be destroyed unopened.

New ballots were mailed to producers on Dec. 20, 2013. These ballots indicated that they are the corrected ballot in several places, including on the outside of the mailing, on the ballot and on the outside of the return envelope.

The corrected ballot must be returned to the Stanly County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote.

Candidates nominated in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1, Stanly County, to serve as a committee member are:

John S. Pickler II, of Long Creek Farms Inc. resides in New London, and has produced wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton for many years with family partnership.

Aaron L. Burluson, of Thurman Burluson & Sons. resides in Richfield, and has produced wheat, corn, soybeans and cotton for many years with family partnership.

The newly elected LAA 1 representative will replace Charles F. "Butch" Brooks, who has served his term limit of three 3-year terms, most of which he served as chairperson. The farmers, land owners, and FSA staff appreciated his service to the county over the past nine years.

FSA 2014 Acreage Reporting Dates

Producers now have until Jan. 15, 2014, to report crops that have a Nov. 15, 2013, or Dec. 15, 2013 reporting deadline without paying a late-file fee. Crops under this waiver include wheat and native and improved grasses intended for grazing or haying. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Stanly County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Stanly County:

- **November 15, 2013:** Perennial Hay or Grazing, Apiculture
- **January 15, 2014:** Wheat, Barley, Oats, Apples, Blueberries, Grapes, Canola, and Peaches
- **May 15, 2014:** Cabbage, Fresh Market Beans, and Potatoes
- **July 15, 2014:** Tobacco, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, CRP, and all other crops and land uses
- **September 15, 2014:** Cabbage and Beans Planting Period 2
- **September 30, 2014:** Aquaculture

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Stanly County FSA office at 26032 Newt Road, Albemarle, NC , Suite A at the Agri-Civic Center or call 704-982-5114, extension 2.



The corrected ballot must be returned to the Stanly County FSA Office or postmarked by January 17, 2014.

More information on county committees, new 2013 fact sheet and brochures can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections